(d) The Prime Minister made a *Suo Motu* Statement in the Rajya Sabha on July 29, 2005 on his visit to the United States. No agreement was signed during the visit.

Exemption of Defence vehicles from toll tax

1778. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vehicles of Defence departments are exempt under the India Tolls (Army and Airforce) Act, 1901 from toll taxes;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the toll collection agency on the Delhi-Noida (NCR) flyway has been collecting tolls from the Defence vehicles despite this exemption;

(c) the reasons for allowing the toll collectors to ignore the law of the land;

(d) the details of other toll bridges/roads where Defence vehicles are made to pay tolls; and

(e) what actions are contemplated, if any, in order to prevent toll collection from Defence vehicles passing through Delhi-Noida flyway?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The provisions of the Indian Tolls (Army and Air Force) Act, 1901, exempt Defence vehicles from the payment of tolls.

(b) and (c) The Noida Toll Bridge Company Ltd. collects fees from Defence vehicle using the bridge. A case was taken up with the Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited to exempt defence vehicles, who have informed that the concession Agreement executed by the Company with the Noida Authority does not provide for any exemptions and also that they incur substantial costs in relation to the operation, maintenance and repair of the Bridge. Any exemption would require concessions from the Government according to Section 6 of the Indian Tolls (Army and Air Force) Act, 1901.

(d) No specific case has come to notice.

(e) In view of the concession agreement, no further action can be taken.